

SRO SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

October 21, 2021



BACKGROUND

- SRO Subcommittee established June 24, 2021
- Subcommittee outreach/research strategy
 - Survey of Mountain View middle and high school students, parents, and staff
 - One on one and group meetings
 - Review of current MVPD SRO program
- SRO Subcommittee will present recommendations to the PSAB on November 18
- PSAB recommendations are scheduled to go to the City Council on December 14

OUTREACH/RESEARCH PROGRESS

- Survey Period: September 9 – November 5
- One-on-one and group meetings with:
 - MVWSD/MVLA students
 - Parents of MVWSD/MVLA students
 - MVWSD/MVLA staff members
 - Community groups and coalitions
 - Mountain View School Resource Officers
 - Upcoming
 - Meeting with Mountain View High School Associated Study Body Group
 - Meeting with group of current Mountain View High School students of color

STUDENT INPUT

STUDENT INPUT OUTREACH EFFORTS

- Group meeting with Justice Vanguard (JV) member, LAHS staff members, and a recent MVHS graduate
- One-on-one meetings with MVHS students
- Meeting with two MVHS students of color
- One-on-one meeting with Graham student
- Upcoming
 - Two events planned to engage groups of students at MVHS
 - Survey concluding November 5

STUDENT INPUT: POSITIVE OR NEUTRAL

- **High School**

- Students don't have many personal interactions with SROs
- Believe SROs would be ok if they provided programs supporting high school students (they were unaware of PAL programs)

STUDENT INPUT: CONCERNS

- **High School:**

- Some students are uncomfortable with SROs walking around campus during passing periods and lunch
- Feeling that police walking around school or serving lunch is “kinda weird” especially if they are carrying a gun
- Not all students want to be addressed publicly by a police officer
- Don’t believe that students’ belongings should be searched in view of other students nor should they be escorted by SROs to be searched or interviewed on campus.
- Concern that only students of color are those being searched
- Highlighted an incident where a student of color was asked to show her ID to an SRO to prove she attended MVHS
- Belief that SROs can be overbearing and scary

- **Middle School**

- Not everyone wants to be known as a D&F or PAL kid
- Don’t understand why some kids and not others get accepted to D&F

PARENT INPUT

PARENT INPUT OUTREACH EFFORTS

- Series of meetings with parents of high school and middle school students.
- Group meetings and individual meetings with Latinx parents
 - 6+ one-on-one meetings
 - Cafecito Group Meeting
 - LCAC Group Meeting
- Upcoming
 - Castro/Mistral School meeting
 - Survey concluding November 5

PARENT INPUT: POSITIVE OR NEUTRAL

- Having officers on campus provides safe, supervised, access to kids that they don't have off campus
 - Police must be a part of the healing process for community/police relations or it will not work
 - Critical to address intergenerational and lived trauma
 - Police are here to serve, so it is natural for them to do this job both in/out of school
- Police presentations and videos to parents and kids about drugs, gangs, and behaviors to look out for are important and helpful
 - Some parents have felt empowered by this knowledge and become leaders/watchers/reporters in their communities
- 1-on-1 opportunities with Hispanic police officers leave lasting, positive impressions on kids
- Officers offer discipline, leadership, authority that can be more powerful than school staff

PARENT INPUT: POSITIVE OR NEUTRAL

- SROs are another trusted adult that can help parents
 - Sometimes parents/kids don't have confidence in school personnel because they feel lumped together or are scared of retaliation. They feel comfortable confiding in SROs
 - Officers come with real lived experience, kids take them seriously
 - Therapists help by "talk;" officers by "observation" - both are important
- Afterschool PAL programs give kids access to sports and teamwork
 - Kids don't always feel comfortable or qualified to participate in traditional school sports

PARENT INPUT: POSITIVE OR NEUTRAL

- Some parents are comfortable enough to ask SROs directly for help with their kids
- One mother of a grown son said that the SROs were responsible for keeping her son out of a gang.
- Another mother spoke of her depressed son and the sharp SRO who detected the problem and, with other officers, mentored the boy and helped relieve his distress.
- Parents loved the excursions and activities the SROs organize. One said that these activities and contact with the SROs had been crucial to keeping her son out of trouble.
- The parents spoke of the positive influence the officers have had on their children.

PARENT INPUT TO DATE: CONCERNS

- Kids need to know why SROs are on campus, it's confusing for both parents and kids if there's no explanation for their presence
 - Schools need to communicate purpose of SROs & provide examples of when they are called
- SRO programs and presence should be structured, not just random interactions; not all kids feel safe with police simply meandering at schools
 - SROs need to interact in groups and within curriculum, not by themselves
 - Need to operate in intimate, super safe environments to address children's trauma
 - No wandering around campus unless there is communication specifically that day that that's going to happen

PARENT INPUT TO DATE: CONCERNS

- Have specific training for specific ages/grades they're working with; IEPs; special needs
- SROs should provide more joint parent/kid or family presentations and discussions
- It is important that kids and police officers have opportunities to “play” together - more childhood elements need to be incorporated
- Kids love PAL sports, but the program needs a lot more funding
- Non SROs should know information about SRO programs and tell families about opportunities.

PARENT INPUT TO DATE: CONCERNS

- Not every parent knows/understands how to advocate for kids to be enrolled in SRO programs
- Police without uniforms can also make kids nervous
 - Feel like they're going to be tricked or trapped
- There should be more female officers interacting with kids, especially young girls

SCHOOL STAFF INPUT

SCHOOL STAFF INPUT TO DATE: OUTREACH EFFORTS

- Group meeting with Justice Vanguard (JV) member, LAHS staff members, and a recent MVHS graduate
- Meeting with Graham staff member
- Meeting with Graham principal
- Meeting with MVHS Principal and Assistant Principal
- Meeting with MVHS staff members
- Upcoming
 - Meeting with Crittenden staff member
 - Alta Vista LCAC meeting

SCHOOL STAFF INPUT : POSITIVE OR NEUTRAL

- SROs lead with kindness, try to teach, and are not confrontational. Students appear to respond well to SROs.
- SROs are helpful collaborators, and are positive influences on their students.
- SROs are a critical part of the At-Risk Student Support Team
- SROs are seen as rock stars on elementary and middle school campuses
 - Mobbed for stickers, selfies

SCHOOL STAFF INPUT: POSITIVE OR NEUTRAL

- SROs are in a unique position to give feedback on behaviors and consequences that traditional mental health staff can't
- SROs are a resource to break the school to prison pipeline
 - Schools can call SROs rather than regular juvenile authorities for help when a kid struggles. SROs are less likely to respond with citation or arrests
- SROs have had positive relationships with “at-risk” students
- MVLA is trying to get SROs to be at their school events i.e. dances and football games

SCHOOL STAFF INPUT: CONCERNS

- Some teachers who have worked years at MVHS don't know SROs are on their campus
- SROs have been rude to school staff when responding to calls (assumed staff was a student)

OTHER INPUT

OTHER INPUT GATHERING EFFORTS

- Group meeting with Justice Vanguard (JV) member, LAHS staff members, and a recent MVHS graduate
- Meeting with 2 of 9 Los Altos SRO Task Force Members
- Meeting with 4 Mountain View Coalition for Police Reform and Accountability (MVCPPRA) steering committee members
- Observation of Dreams and Futures program
- Meeting with MVRPD Youth Services Unit

OTHER INPUT: POSITIVE OR NEUTRAL

- SROs respond to parents asking schools for help with their kids who may be exhibiting at-risk behavior -YSU
- SROs do not conduct searches or escort students to classrooms. School staff escort students to private rooms. This is a practice, not a formal policy -YSU
- SROs make very few arrests and issue few citations, are more interested in keeping kids out of the system. – YCU
- Normally, SROs go directly to admin office when called to schools -YSU
- During mental health responses, UPLIFT provides transport of students to hospitals, not SROs -YSU
- SROs are special because they provide "authority" that teachers/educators don't have, and a flexibility of what they are able to do such as following up with students off campus -YSU

OTHER INPUT: CONCERNS

- There is a lack of consistent training for school staff on when to call SROs, no mandatory introduction – YSU
- School staff may call SROs for matters that do not need a law enforcement response, violates students - JV
- MVPD needs to clarify the referral criteria for Dreams and Futures participation - YSU
- There's no evidence SROs make campus safer from school shootings – Los Altos SRO Task Force
- It is unknown whether MVPD and MVLA/MVWSD have the same perceived purpose for SROs – Los Altos SRO Task Force
- There is research that shows SROs have a detrimental effect on students feeling safe – Los Altos SRO Task Force

OTHER INPUT: CONCERNS

- MVHS students, recent graduates and their parents have expressed interest in removing SROs from campus, especially during summer 2020 - MVCPPRA
- MVHS student/alumni have reported needing more mental health services at school in place of SROs - MVCPPRA
- Community members are concerned about armed police officers being on school campus (for safety reasons as well as for students' mental well-being) - MVCPPRA

NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS

- Tonight, the PSAB can discuss the information that was presented and/or elaborate on information gathered.
- The SRO Subcommittee will conclude research and outreach November 5.
- Based on all input, the SRO Subcommittee will draft SRO program recommendations which will be presented to the PSAB November 18
 - PSAB will determine which recommendations to submit to the City Council
- City staff will present the PSAB recommendations to the City Council December 14.